

AMENDMENT IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract to read as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~Disclosed are an~~ An optical fiber preform manufacturing apparatus and method in which processes for shrinking and closing a deposited tube are conducted using a device suitable for those processes, which device is other than the device used in a deposition process for forming the deposited tube method whereby a clad layer and a core layer is deposited on the inner surface of a preform tube, thereby reducing the processing time while reducing the amount of OR penetrated from the preform tube into a vitreous component for forming a deposited tube. One end of the deposited tube, thereby achieving a reduction in OR loss. In accordance with the optical fiber preform manufacturing apparatus and method, operations are conducted which involve setting the heating temperature of is shrunk and closed. The deposited tube which has a closed end is arranged extending vertically through a circular heater. A heat is applied to the deposited tube at a temperature lower than the softening point of a deposited tube, exhausting contaminants existing in the interior of the deposited tube while moving the circular heater at a desired temperature, setting. The the heating temperature of the circular heater is then set to a temperature not lower than the softening point of the deposited tube, and shrinking to shrink and closing close the deposited tube while moving the circular heater to a desired temperature.